

Tyndall Out as Head Coach of Tennessee

What does the future hold for Southern Miss' Basketball Program?

Numerous sources have confirmed that Donnie Tyndall will not be returning as head basketball coach for the University of Tennessee. Not content with discretely easing Tyndall out the door, [ESPN reports](#) that “[Tennessee] athletic director Dave Hart says the university never would have hired him if they knew the details of his unethical conduct at [Southern Miss](#) program during his tenure there.” The [public termination letter](#) also claims that Tyndall “acknowledged deleting emails that could have been relevant to the investigation.”

As previously reported by usmnews.net, [Tyndall was under investigation](#) for potential rules violations related to improper financial aid to two academically ineligible Southern Miss players. According to Hart, it is “highly likely” that the NCAA will determine that Tyndall committed Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 violations, justifying terminating Tyndall’s contract for cause. By firing Tyndall for cause, Tennessee avoids pay out of more than \$3 million under Tyndall’s three year contract.

Sources report that it is likely Tyndall will be disciplined under the NCAA coach control provisions of the rules, regardless of whether he was personally responsible for the violations. However, while accepting responsibility for any such misconduct, Tyndall’s public statement appears to shift the burden for non-compliance to Southern Miss. “During my time at Southern Miss, I believed that our program followed NCAA rules and worked well with the university’s administration to maintain an atmosphere of rules compliance,” Tyndall said.

The question remains what penalties will be attached to Southern Miss’ basketball program. However, given the sorry state of the program, many readers question whether anyone would notice if the program was suspended for multiple years.